

## **ABSTRACT**

**DISSERTATION:** Family Engagement Practices of Part C Early Interventionists in Indiana: A Quantitative Study

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Family engagement in early intervention has been identified as a critical element to a child's development, especially those with disabilities and delays. Several recommended practices have been identified as contributing to family engagement. These recommended practices include providing services in the natural environment, utilizing natural learning opportunities, providing services in a family-centered manner, and employing coaching strategies to facilitate family engagement. Based on national and state recommended practice publications, Part C service providers in Indiana are expected to provide services using these recommended practices, however several bodies of research have identified a gap between the research and actual practice. The purpose of this study was to determine the differences in training, perceived knowledge, perceived effectiveness and implementation of the recommended practices that lead to family engagement of IDEA Part C service providers based on trainings on these practices and type of profession. Findings were discussed in light of current evidence and suggestions for future research were made.